

### *Working toward a Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt)*

The **Better Buildings Initiative** is a national leadership initiative calling on state and local officials, corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, utilities, and other leaders to make substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The cornerstones are a commitment to a 20% or more savings target across the organizations' portfolios and a commitment to share strategies that work, substantiated by energy data across the portfolios. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expanding this initiative to engage leaders in a set of **Better Buildings Accelerators** designed to demonstrate specific innovative approaches, which upon successful demonstration will accelerate investment in energy efficiency.

The **Wastewater Infrastructure Accelerator** will work over three years with state, regional, and local agencies that are engaging with water resource recovery facilities in their jurisdiction to accelerate a pathway toward a sustainable infrastructure of the future. This DOE initiative will build upon and leverage a substantial portfolio of work, resources and partnerships established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and various industry partners to add a new set of partners focused on developing actions and solutions in the energy-water nexus. DOE recognizes EPA's Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) leadership and will coordinate with EPA and this growing coalition on approaches to assist Accelerator partners chart pathways to sustainability.

The Accelerator aims to catalyze the adoption of innovative and best-practice approaches in data management, technologies, and financing for infrastructure improvement. Wastewater Infrastructure Accelerator Partners will seek to improve the energy efficiency of their participating water resource recovery facilities by at least 30 percent and ideally integrate at least one resource recovery measure. Partner solutions will provide model plans and road-tested examples that other water resource recovery facilities can follow on their path to a sustainable wastewater infrastructure.

### **Goals of Wastewater Infrastructure Accelerator**

- ▶ Demonstrate best-practice/cutting-edge approaches and tools toward a sustainable wastewater infrastructure and yield road-tested examples for other facilities
- ▶ Document model plans for transitioning to a sustainable infrastructure that will help drive more solutions in the industry
- ▶ Develop assessment and decision tools for selecting best-practice approaches and tools on the pathway toward a sustainable infrastructure
- ▶ Develop recommendations for post-Accelerator next steps

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Wastewater Infrastructure Partners, in collaboration with DOE, will demonstrate practical and effective best practices to accelerate the path to a sustainable wastewater infrastructure. Accelerator Partners and DOE enter into this partnering agreement to facilitate the transition process across jurisdictions.

#### Accelerator Partner Agrees to:

- ▶ **Recruit** one or more water resource recovery facilities in the jurisdiction that are committed to reducing their energy consumption, as measured by overall energy intensity, by 30 percent; and provide a point of contact at each
- ▶ **Participate** in peer exchange and technical assistance forums about tools, approaches, technologies, and options
- ▶ **Develop** a baseline energy consumption within six months
- ▶ **Demonstrate** at least a five-percent energy savings in each facility by applying low- or no-cost energy conservation measures; in at least one of the facilities, implement one or more measures included in the final plan within 12-18 months of the end of the Accelerator
- ▶ **Assist** each participating facility in the development of an infrastructure improvement plan that includes best-practice energy performance tracking, a package of cutting-edge technologies with a focus on resource recovery, and a concrete financing model
- ▶ **Share** results and lessons learned with DOE and other Accelerator partners. DOE, in turn, will share these results with EPA and industry associations

#### U.S. Department of Energy Agrees to:

- ▶ **Appoint** a point of contact
- ▶ **Provide technical assistance** and training about energy data management, tools, approaches, technologies, and options
- ▶ **Develop** additional technical tools and/or assistance necessary to meet the goals of the Accelerator
- ▶ **Create and facilitate** networking and technical peer exchange opportunities with stakeholder organizations and other partners to develop best practices and share innovative solutions
- ▶ **Leverage** full set of tools and resources developed by stakeholder organizations and compile best practices and approaches for striving toward sustainable infrastructure
- ▶ **Provide national recognition** to Accelerator partners and participating facilities for achieving milestones and for their leadership in working toward a sustainable wastewater infrastructure

### Agreement:

My organization is committed to forging a path toward a sustainable infrastructure with our partner water resource recovery facilities and agrees to the General Terms of the agreement.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER PRINTED NAME

### Point of Contact Information:

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

NAME

TITLE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTNER WATER  
RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES

### General Terms:

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the initiative.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative does not constitute Federal Government endorsement of Partner.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Initiative are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the Federal Government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Buildings Initiative will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.